

REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: SAURIA: ANGUIDAE GERRHONOTUS PAUCICARINATUS

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

LAIS, P. MIKE. 1976. *Gerrhonotus paucicarinatus*.

***Gerrhonotus paucicarinatus* Fitch**
San Lucan alligator lizard

Gerrhonotus multicarinatus: Yarrow, 1883:47 (part). See NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.

Gerrhonotus multi-carinatus: Stejneger and Barbour, 1917:61. See NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.

Gerrhonotus paucicarinatus Fitch, 1934:173. Type-locality, "Todos Santos, Lower California, Mexico." Holotype, adult male, Univ. California Mus. Vert. Zool. 11768, collected by C. C. Lamb on 29 October 1928 (holotype examined by author).

Elgaria paucicarinata: Tihen, 1949:595.

• CONTENT. No subspecies have been described.

• DEFINITION. A relatively small species of *Gerrhonotus* (maximum snout-vent length about 110 mm), with dorsal scales in 14 to 16 longitudinal rows and 49 to 53 transverse rows. Eight middorsal scale rows are moderately keeled on the body and tail; scales on the sides of the body are slightly keeled. Lateral caudals, temporals, and upper arm scales are smooth. Scales on the upper side of the thigh and lateral side of the tibia are keeled. The interoccipital is single, and there are usually eight postnasals. The ground color is brown to gray-olive. The head is variably marked with dark brown, and a temporal band is present in some individuals. In adults, the body is marked with eleven to thirteen irregular dark bands that include white-tipped scales on the sides. The lateral fold is white to light gray, traversed by irregular dark bars extending from the bands of the sides. Some adults have a broad, bronze-colored longitudinal band and reduced transverse bands. Adults have alternating black and white markings on the labials, giving the face a striped appearance. Juveniles have a broad, bronze-colored longitudinal dorsal band.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The type-specimen was described by Fitch (1938). Other descriptions are in Van Denburgh (1895, 1898, 1922), Schmidt (1922), Fitch (1934), Murray (1955), and Bostic (1971).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. No illustrations have been published.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Gerrhonotus paucicarinatus* occurs throughout the Cape San Lucas region, Baja California, south of 24° 30' latitude and east of 110° 30' longitude, from sea level to 6,200 feet elevation (La Laguna, east of Todos Santos). At higher elevations *G. paucicarinatus* occurs in grassy meadows in mixed forests of pine, madrone, oaks, and shrubs. "At an altitude of 5,400 feet in the Sierra Laguna, Mr. Slevin found one of these lizards under a dead yucca stalk, three under fallen pine trees, and two running about in the grass of a mountain meadow" (Van Denburgh, 1922). It also occurs from lower elevations to sea level in Lower Sonoran habitat characterized by cactus, agaves, mesquite, and acacias, although probably in cool, moist microhabitats in this zone (Richmond, 1965). Descriptions of habitats in the Cape San Lucas region are in Nelson (1922), and Fox (1963), and photographs in Nelson (1922).

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

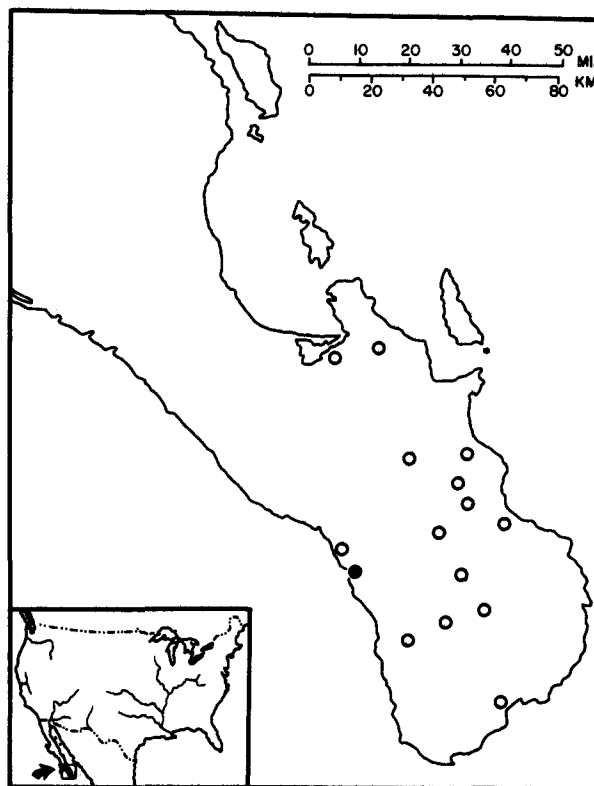
• PERTINENT LITERATURE. The best taxonomic treatments of the species are in Fitch (1934, 1938). Others include Tihen (1949), Stebbins (1958), and Waddick (1963). Bury et al. (1969) described and figured the karyotype, and discussed its relationship to those of four other anguid species. Van Denburgh (1898), Fitch (1938), and Bostic (1971) compared *G. paucicarinatus* to *G. multicarinatus*. Bostic (1971) also described specimens of *G. multicarinatus* from the Central Desert of Baja California that have characters intermediate between those of *G. multicarinatus webbi* and *G. paucicarinatus*. His evidence suggests intergradation between the two species, but a gap of about 250 miles separates these populations. Savage (1960) surmised that *G. paucicarinatus* separated from *G. multicarinatus* during the Pleistocene. Notes on distribution are in Yarrow (1883), Van Denburgh (1895, 1898, 1922), Cope (1900), Van Denburgh and Slevin (1921), Schmidt (1922), Linsdale (1932), Smith and Taylor (1950), Murray (1955), and Richmond (1965).

• NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY. Yarrow (1883) was the first to include the population from the Cape San Lucas region (La Paz) with California populations in the taxon *Gerrhonotus multicarinatus*. Stejneger (1893) applied the name *multicarinatus* exclusively to the Cape San Lucas form, on the basis of Bocourt's (1878) description of the type-specimen. At the same time Stejneger combined the northern forms (*G. multicarinatus*, *G. scincicauda*, and *G. grandis*) of other authors in the taxon *G. scincicauda*. This classification was followed by Van Denburgh (1895, 1898, 1922) and generally accepted until 1934, except that Cope (1900) included northern forms of both *G. coerules* and *G. multicarinatus* with the San Lucan form in the taxon *G. multicarinatus*. Stejneger and Barbour (1917) used the name *multi-carinatus* for the San Lucan *Gerrhonotus*, following the original spelling (Blainville, 1835). Fitch (1934) re-examined the status of *multi-carinatus* and found the characters of the type-specimen agreed with those of *G. scincicauda*. Since *G. multi-carinatus* replaced the junior name *G. scincicauda*, the San Lucan form was left nameless. Fitch (1934) proposed the name *G. paucicarinatus* for it.

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *paucicarinatus* (Latin, *pauci* "few" and *carina* "keels") refers to the reduced keeling of the scales.

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MAP. The solid symbol marks the type-locality. Hollow symbols indicate other known localities.

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